

The 3rd Cork Camp Report

Perros-Guirce

Camp 2003

Introduction

Last year was an amazing year for the 3rd Cork scout troop. At the start of the year we knew that almost all 10 of our court of Honour would move on after Camp 2003. Leaders and COH set about rebuilding. In January we took on board about 10 new scouts and just shortly before the summer we gained cubs and even more new members. Going into the summer programme we had 45 scouts on books, with over 40 turning up. It was extremely hard work by all the leadership of the troop. The older guys put the troop before themselves at times and helped with our “new scout programme”. I think the reward to them was that we were going to Perros Guirce, in France for camp.

The 3rd Cork troops 72nd camp took us back to a campsite that had been the venue to 2 great camps in the past for us. All the ex-members still in contact with us talk about Perros very fondly. The challenge this year was to make this camp a little more special.

Travel

We took a Brittany ferries ship from Ringaskiddy to Roscoff. The journeys over and back were very pleasant. The Brittany ferries staff were extremely helpful to us. We hired a French bus company called Merrion buses. They provided all of our buses on tour and too and from the campsite. Again we were very pleased with their service

Campsite and Perros-Guirce

Camp 2003 took us to the lovely tourist town of Perros Guirec in Brittany, France. Perros is about an hour drive from the port of Roscoff. Our campsite was a family run site just 2-minute walk from the beautiful golden beach of Trestroau. The local town was small but friendly and safe for the scouts. It had everything we needed including Supermarket, bakery, fast-food restaurant and a cinema. The beach had daily-organized activities such as soccer, volleyball and trampolines.

In total we had a group of 28 scouts and 7 leaders. We had 8 first time campers, which I feel is the perfect number. All these lads performed very well. Some of the young scouts felt a little homesick in the first few days but nothing that you would call too serious. All of the scouts were extremely well behaved. I am again very proud of their behavior.

Tours and activities

Our tours took us first of all to Euro-Disney in Paris. For many this will be the highlight of this camp. It was well over 40 degrees heat while we were in Paris. We traveled from our campsite over night and were waiting at the gates of Disney at opening time. We took in both theme parks. As a group we did very well to keep all scouts hydrated and preventing sun burn. In total Euro-Disney was perfect. One that will always be remembered.

Other tours took us to Lannion and Brest. On the Wednesday before coming home we went to the largest aquarium in Europe. This was called Oceanopolise. We spent 3 great hours looking at tropical fish and penguins. On the final Thursday we took a boat trip to the seven Islands. These islands are nature reserve but to be honest some of us including myself, didn't take too much notice. The boat journey was rocky to say the least and had

a few pinned to our seat with green faces. I have been assured by the other leaders that the rest of the lads had a ball on the deck of the boat.

There were also all of the usual scouting activities such as the Sports day, a base day, hiking to all the neighboring beaches and interpatrol soccer. Each day there were a comprehensive tent and personal hygiene inspection. Each patrol were also marked on cooking dinner. This year we also introduced what was know as the *Big Brother* bases. These were patrol bases with a theme to each one. Some notable bases where the Corp circle making on the beach and the learning of 2 Irish dances which had to be performed in front of the group.

The Fox patrol won the interpatrol competition but it also worth noting, that the Curlew under the leadership of David O'Keefe won most events and were very unlucky not to win the overall.

Accidents

We were unfortunate to have one serious incident while playing interpatrol soccer on the beach. Anthony Murphy clashed heads with another scout. He was extremely dazed and his words were slurring after the knock. All leaders were present during the incident. After giving it a few minutes to access the injury, I felt that we had no other choice but to call a doctor or an ambulance. We contacted the site owners who called the ambulance. They took Anthony to the local hospital about 10 miles from the beach. On arrival at the hospital we were happy to see that Anthony was coming around and could now communicate fully with us. The doctors explained that he had concussion but he was going to be okay once he slept it off. Anthony stayed the night in hospital under observation and he was released the next day. With over a full week left of the camp he was not allowed to play any sport. I am happy to say that he did not show any other further discomfort on the camp and is in good health. Besides a few small cuts and blisters, there were no other accidents on this camp. A full report of this event has been given to UL Robert Lane. (There is also a full first aid report book available in the Camp manual)

Special Camp

The right from the beginning the aim was to make Perros Guirce one of those camps. One of the great camps. Portumna 96, Gilwell 99, Clonbur 2000 and now Perros Guirce 03. I'm delighted to say we achieved our goal. This year's camp was special. It created some amazing memories and friendships. Team spirit was incredible as always. I think the beach and euro-Disney will go down as the highlight for many but for me the peak of this camp was again the quality of young people we had on the group.

I owe a big thank you to many people. First of all thanks to the leaders who keep believing in what the 3rd Cork scouts have to offer.

Thanks to all at Brittany ferries especially Bernadette in Ringaskiddy. She was extremely friendly and helpful. I have written a letter of thanks to her company for their great help. I can strongly recommend that other scout groups use their service.

Thanks to Trestroau Campsite. They were friendly and extremely helpful at all times of the camp. It won't be 8 years until we go back. Thanks to Tania for helping with the buses. Merrion Buses were our transport for the two weeks and again I can't speak too highly of their services.

I must say a big thank you those older scouts you hopefully move on and up in our organization. To David, Ian, Steven, Jonathon, Alan, Mark, Anthony and Brian thank you for all the great years scouting. Hope this the beginning of something for all of them. Finally I'm must thank all of the scouts who yet again choose to abide by the rules and work as a team. I'm very proud to say I was part of that group.

Yours in Scouting

Graham Hayes
3rd Cork Scout leader.